

MAYOR IVESON AND CITY MANAGER CORBOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH MASS FIRINGS OF EDMONTON TRANSIT EMPLOYEES

Yesterday, Mayor Iveson and City administration put a nail in the coffin of over 100 transit workers' jobs who clean city buses when they used an in-camera meeting to kill a motion that would have saved in-house cleaning jobs.

"The political establishment led by Mayor Iveson and City Manager Corbould have attacked their most vulnerable employees," said ATU local 569 President Steve Bradshaw. "At the end of the day, Iveson and Corbould are using their elite structural power to fire dedicated cleaners and banish them to the unemployment lines. They have escalated against their employees and we are going to make sure union members and taxpayers know exactly who was behind the release of the bus cleaner RFP: Iveson and Corbould."

Council was discussing a motion by Councillor Aaron Paquette to look for other ways of funding the hoped-for savings. Before the discussion even took off, the meeting was taken behind closed doors, beyond public scrutiny and imposing confidentiality on all Councillors. No one knows what was said there. The meeting was opened to the public when the Mayor ruled the motion out of order.

"They skulked off in secrecy hoping voters wouldn't notice." said Bradshaw. "They should have been talking about quality services and protecting jobs. Instead, they nit-picked the Mayor's "budget implications". "

The Amalgamated Transit Union is calling for militant union struggle against any city contractor that steps foot in fleet services.

"We are moving forward with our plans to develop militant union struggle against whichever bus cleaning corporation the City of Edmonton attempts to bring in," added Bradshaw. "I hope they put in the RFP that the winning contractor is going to have an immediate fight with the ATU if they offer anything lower than the current compensation and quality standards. Whatever projected savings City Manager Corbould promised City Council from privatizing bus cleaning will disappear in the face of our campaign to re-organize the workers to fight and restore every article of the prevailing union contract."

"This isn't over," said Bradshaw. "Transit workers are determined to win".

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